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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/027,449	12/21/2001	Richard A. Mazur	47171-00262USC2	1697

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EXAMINER

BEAUCHAINE, MARK J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3653

DATE MAILED: 08/27/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/027,449

Applicant(s)

MAZUR ET AL.

Examiner

Mark J. Beauchaine

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) See Continuation Sheet is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 171-174, 184-198, 200-204, 214, 215, 218-222, 227-236, 243-245, 251 and 260-293 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 16 & 19. 6) ☐ Other: _____

Continuation of Disposition of Claims: Claims pending in the application are 171-174,184-198,200-204,214,215,218-222,227-236,243-245,251 and 260-293.

DETAILED ACTION

Inventorship

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Specification

The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 171-174, 184-198, 200-204, 214, 215, 218-222, 227-236, 243-245, 251-255 and 260-293 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over De La Rue Systems 3100 Series Operator Instructions Manual Issue 1.2 (52 Pages), dated October 1986 (Item C8 of IDS - Paper Number 19) (hereinafter De La Rue) in view of Patent Number 5,394,992 by Winkler (hereinafter Winkler). The currency sorter disclosed by De La Rue incorporates a feed hopper on the upper part of the housing, and three output pockets on the side wall of the housing (see Figure 1 of Page 1 / 2) that read on the Applicant's input receptacle and output receptacles, respectively. De La Rue further discloses operational step 4. A(4) that states the sorter "normally stops when . . . a suspect counterfeit is detected" (see lines 16 plus, page 4 / 1). Still further, De La Rue discloses the step of transporting a suspect note to a separate cull pocket once detected (see lines 3 plus, page 4 / 5).

De La Rue fails to disclose a currency sorter capable of processing bills at a rate of 800 bills a minute or more. However, high-speed currency sorters of such processing rates are well known in the art. Winkler teaches a document sorter comprising an input

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tray 16, and output trays 98,104. Said "sorter is intended to handle documents at a high rate of speed approaching 2,000 documents per minute" (column 5, lines 53 plus).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to augment the processing rate of the De La Rue currency sorter using technology of the high-speed sorter of Winkler to enhance the processing speed of the apparatus.

Conclusion

The following prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Patent Number 5,761,089 by McInerny because of its 1,200 document per minute operating speed (column 17, lines 50 plus), and

Patent Number 5,430,664 by Cargill et al because of its document counting speed of about 1,200 documents per minute (column 11, lines 62 plus).

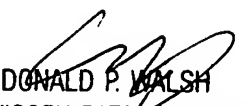
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark J. Beauchaine whose telephone number is (703)308-6336. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM through 5:00PM Mondays through Thursdays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald P. Walsh can be reached on (703)306-4173. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-1113.

mjb


DONALD P. WALSH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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